

**MEMORANDUM**

**To:** Board of Regents

**From:** Board Office

**Subject:** Accreditation Report for the College of Family and Consumer Sciences, Iowa State University

**Date:** March 6, 2000

**Recommended Action:**

Receive the report on accreditation for the College of Family and Consumer Sciences, Iowa State University.

**Executive Summary:**

At its April 11, 1999 meeting, the Council for Accreditation of the American Association of Family and Consumer Sciences (AAFCS) voted to grant accreditation to the College of Family and Consumer Sciences (CFCS) at Iowa State University. Accreditation is granted by the Council for a period of ten years. This accreditation expires April, 2009. The next self-study will be due February 1, 2008.

A number of strengths were noted in the Council's letter granting reaccreditation. The strengths were: 1) clearly stated mission and goals statements which are consistent with the mission and goals of the institution; 2) a well-defined planning process; 3) continuous responsiveness to the changing needs of society, through teaching, research, and outreach, as exemplified by a number of partnerships with industry and other constituent groups; 4) a well-qualified faculty; 5) a strong commitment to international programming; 6) programs reflecting commitment to continuous improvement; 7) receipt of approximately 85 percent of the funding for a \$6.9 million building for Human Development and Family Studies; and 8) a Career Services Office which effectively supports students and alumni.

The College was found to be in compliance with all standards. The Council offered seven recommendations to strengthen compliance with accreditation criteria. The CFCS of Iowa State University responded to these recommendations in its Annual Report to the Council on September 1, 1999. The recommendations and responses are described below.

Accreditation reviews are consistent with the Board of Regents' strategic plan, KRA 1.0.0.0, Quality. The accreditation process relates to Objective 1.1.0.0, "to improve the quality of existing and newly created educational programs."

**Background:**

The College of Family and Consumer Sciences was founded in 1871 as the first program in home economics in the United States to be offered at a land-grant university. Currently, the College offers 11 degree programs leading to baccalaureate degrees. In both the year of the site visit (1998) and in 1999, the College had a total full-time equivalent faculty (FTE) of 89.8 in five departments/programs. They are: Human Development and Family Studies, Family & Consumer Sciences Education & Studies, Food Science and Human Nutrition, Hotel, Restaurant & Institution Management, and Textiles and Clothing.

The College enrolled 1,102 students during the site year visit. It graduated 350 students with bachelor's degrees, 61 with master's degrees, and 28 with doctoral degrees.

The response of the CFCS to the Council's recommendations were as follows:

**1) Continue to optimize the use of concepts from the College core in professionally focused curricula to insure that programs provide an integrative focus. [Criterion 3.2 (2)]**

Response: A series of examples were provided from each department, as well as one College strategy, i.e., the creation of an experimental learning community course for freshmen, offered in Fall 1999, to better integrate service-learning and interactive skill development.

**2) Develop and implement plans to provide increased technical support and other resources for faculty to support teaching/learning. [Criterion 4.2(2)]**

Response: The College has continued to increase educational technology support for faculty and staff. Two permanent staff were hired in 1998-99. Student computer lab hours were expanded to evenings and Sunday. In 1999-2000, a director of educational technology will be added. In the last two years, the CFCS has averaged \$500,000 for support in this area.

- 3) Continue to monitor enrollment in all program areas to insure that each program is supported by a critical mass of faculty/students/resources. [Intent 4.2]**

Response: College undergraduate enrollment in 1998-99 decreased by four percent compared to 1997-98, but the decrease was solely due to decline in Hotel, Restaurant, Institutional Management (HRIM) student numbers. This will be a key priority for the new HRIM department chair hired in Fall 1998. TC and FCEDS enrollments in 1998-99 increased substantially over the previous year.

- 4) Continue the outcomes assessment process to guide resource allocation and curriculum revision. [Criterion 5.3 (1)]**

Response: The College has begun to make revisions to its strategic plan which include extensive use of outcomes assessments. Annual graduating senior and alumni surveys are used by all departments.

- 5) Continue to foster the development of faculty to enhance their success in progressing through the academic ranks. [Criteria 5.2 (1), 5.4 (3)]**

Response: The Dean met with all associate professors to discuss strategies for promotion. Faculty continue to be reviewed annually by DEOs, Associate Deans, and the Dean. All new faculty are assigned senior faculty members by departments. Also, this year the university adopted a post-tenure review policy of faculty at least every seven years.

- 6) Continue to explore funding to renovate laboratory, teaching and research facilities in MacKay Hall. [Criterion 8.1 (1)]**

Response: The university has contributed funds, so that \$500,000 can be spent on creating a new lab, as well as completing the renovation of another teaching lab. Fund-raising activities are continuing. The completion of the third floor of Palmer is the College's first priority, the renovation of the FSHN teaching labs, the second, and MacKay and LeBaron renovation third. *Note: The self-study and the visiting team report make numerous references to the need to upgrade MacKay Hall.*

- 7) Continue to work toward compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act and life safety standards in all facilities. [Criteria 8.1 (1), 8.1 (7)]**

Response: The College contracted to have an infrastructure feasibility study conducted for MacKay and LeBaron Halls. These projects are in the state budgets for the Regent institutions.

**Analysis:**

The standards of the Council of the American Association of Family and Consumer Sciences were met. The two chief concerns of the report, which have been addressed by the College, are the need to improve some of the facilities and to monitor student enrollments. The Council commended the College for its extensive planning efforts and its commitment to the use of outcomes assessments.

Other recommendations of the visiting team, as well as concerns identified by the self-study committee, are essentially modifications which can be made with relative ease.

A copy of the self-study report, on-site visiting team report, and correspondence between the accrediting organization and the University is located in the Board Office.

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Charles R. Kniker

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_  
Frank J. Stork